Classrooms of the Future

As technology is becoming more and more advanced, classrooms are as well. New technology is being integrated into classrooms across the county, and most districts strive to stay up to date on the technology used in their schools. There are many visions for what a classroom will look like in the future. A blueprint of a classroom five years from now would include collaborative environments, online communication tools, mobiles, cloud computing, smart objects and the personal web (Johnson, L. 2009).

Having collaborative environments in the future is different than what one may think of a collaborative environment today. A classroom in the future will have an environment in which online communication and collaboration with people all around the world is available.

Another possible aspect of a futuristic classroom is online communication tools. “Instant messaging and online chats via desktop video conferencing are common means for social interaction with family and friends. As technology provides ways for teachers to help shape the constructive use of communication tools in the classroom, a new world of experiences is opening up for students” (Johnson, L). This may also be incorporated into the classroom with the use of students’ individual “mobiles.” Cell phones, iTouches, and other smart phones are soon to be the only type of phone held by students. The many capabilities of these devices can be applied in the classroom in so many ways: internet searching, educational applications, texting, etc. In a classroom in five years, it may be that educators are taking advantage of the tools on their students’ devices. There will be a network that enables a large amount of data to be stored that is easily accessible and useable by teachers, administrators, and students.

Smart objects and the personal web are other tools that will be in a classroom in five years. There are many smart objects in classrooms today, such as Smart Boards, and other sensory tools. “The underlying technologies that support smart objects are not new, but we are now seeing new kinds of sensors, identifiers, and applications with a much more generalizable set of functionalities” (Johnson). The personal web is sites that are created and used by “us.” Educators and students can create personalized sites with specific content and purpose. This is becoming increasingly popular today, and will be a major part of classrooms in five years.

There are many other tools that used in the classroom in the future. One tool is student response systems. “Student response systems promote active learning, student engagement, and collaboration in the physical classroom. Instructors can pose questions, and students answer them, by pressing a button on the response pad” (University, 2009). There will be LCD projectors, LCD projector, document camera, interactive whiteboards, wireless response systems, and classroom audio systems. In a video about classrooms in the future, there were soundproof walls to encourage more interactivity, and a large television screen for the viewing of educational videos, or even collaborating with classrooms around the world (Youtube, 2009).

With the great amount of new technology becoming available, the possibilities of the classrooms of the future are endless.

References

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